

June 2013



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## Garfield & Asotin County Grassland Reserve Program

Signup for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) started on June 17th and runs through July 5, 2013. The purpose of the GRP is to provide landowners and operators assistance in protecting grazing uses and related conservation values on eligible private range and pasture lands. The program emphasizes support of grazing operations, maintaining and improving plant and animal biodiversity, and protecting grasslands and shrub lands under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development, and other non-grazing uses.

GRP allows agricultural producers to enroll land in 10, 15, or 20 year contracts that help preserve range and pasture lands. In exchange for managing the land, as outlined in an approved grazing plan, producers will receive annual rental payments throughout the life of the contract. Rental rates for both Garfield & Asotin County are set at \$13.75/acre.

Eligibility is based on several factors. GRP applicants must be the legal owners, or have written evidence of control of the land for the life of the contract. Applicants must currently have an existing commercial grazing operation. Ranking will be based on the existing stands location, needed enhancements and the condition of the cover. A final score will be given to each offer for final ranking once plans have been developed by NRCS. Land that is currently under an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contract or a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contract with NRCS is not eligible for GRP. Each offer will be limited to a maximum of 640 acres. Originally the limit was 320 acres, but that has since been increased. There are no minimum acreage requirements. Ranking scores will be weighted heavily toward ground which currently has an existing native grass cover. Additional points will be given to the ground that is expiring from CRP this fall.

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### Garfield & Asotin County Acreage Report Deadline - July 15, 2013 FSA Office

**Garfield County FSA Office**  
PO Box 18  
Pomeroy WA 99347

**Asotin County FSA Office**  
720 6th Street Ste B  
Clarkston WA 99403

As spring planting is completed, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. The deadline to certify your acres is July 15th. Please call for an appointment if you have not already done so, and remember to have your plant dates ready.

**Garfield:** ph 509-843-1997  
fax 509-843-1168

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### DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. Producers must sign up for DCP

**Asotin:** ph 509-758-7821  
fax 509-758-7533

before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012.

**County Executive Director:**  
Jeremy Nelson

**Program Technicians:**  
Sherri Meacham  
Emily Ruchert  
Lorelei McNamee

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Houston Bruck  
Phone: 509-924-7350

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## 2012 ACRE Production Reporting Requirement

If your farm participated in the 2012 ACRE program you are reminded that as a condition of eligibility for payment, the owner or operator with a share of the crop must submit production reports. Production reports are needed for all 2012 ACRE program commodities for which acreage reports greater than zero were submitted. The deadline for submitting production reports is July 15, 2013.

Failure to timely complete production reports (FSA-658) will result in a request for refund of all Direct and ACRE program payments issued for the farm's 2012 ACRE Program participation.

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## Deadline to Submit Production for NAP Covered Crops

Producers who obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to report annually all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements. Production information can be provided to the county office either by submitting actual production evidence, or certified production. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form (Actual Production History Form).

The deadline to submit a signed CCC-452 is close of business Monday July 15, 2013. Failure to timely report production may negatively affect future year approved yield calculations for your NAP covered crops.

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## NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES FOR THE 2014 CROP YEAR

- 8/31/2013 – Canola; carrots (for seed, fresh or processing); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.
- 9/30/2013 – Mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage, and forage seed crops.
- 11/20/2013 – Perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.
- 3/15/2014 – Beets (for seed or fresh); buckwheat; camelina; mustard; radish (for seed or fresh); small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas); and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date.

NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the

county.

Notices of Loss must be filed the earlier of the following in order to be considered eligible:

- 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims.

- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date

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## **FSA Seeks Nominees for Garfield & Asotin County Committee**

The Farm Service Agency is looking for candidates for the upcoming county committee election. FSA is accepting nominations through August 1, 2013.

FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you may be considered eligible under the cooperation criteria if you have farm records on file with FSA.

The Garfield & Asotin County Committee draws their members from local administrative areas. Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year.

This year's election in Garfield County takes place in LAA 3, which is the southern portion of the county. Max Scoggin is the current committee member representing this area, and has served 3 consecutive terms, so he is not eligible to be re-elected this year. Asotin County election takes place in LAA 1, which is the Anatone Area. Susie Appleford is the current member representing this area and has served 2 terms on the Asotin County Committee. A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found on the agency's website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa..>

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings. Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2014.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from our office. Nomination forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

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## **CRP Signup is Complete**

General CRP signup ended June 14, 2013. The offers have been submitted to the national office for final scoring and ranking. If you submitted an offer during the signup period, you will be contacted once we receive the list of accepted offers and we will let you know whether your offer was accepted or not. We do not know how long the ranking process will take, so your patience is greatly appreciated.

## **CRP Maintenance**

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The primary nesting season for Washington is April 1 through July 1. During this time period, prior approval of

the County Committee is required to spot treat weeds by mowing, burning, or spraying after the stand is established. Treatment must be limited to areas that have weed problems. Treatment of entire fields for cosmetic purposes is not allowed.

For stands that are still in the "establishment phase", weed control during the nesting season is permitted without prior FSA approval. Weed control when the stand is young is important for successful establishment.

Failure to control weeds on CRP can result in payment reductions and even termination. Fifty percent cost-sharing is available for mid-contract management activities if included in your conservation plan, and approved by FSA before work begins. Examples of practices include: mowing, herbicide application and fertilization.

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## **Farm Storage Facility Loans Available**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Funding is available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction begins. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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